



Rural Advocate

Spring 2005

2005 Rural Development Conference

We are excited to announce that the Rural Development Conference for 2005 will take place at the Lincoln Center in beautiful Hot Springs. Mark your calendars for May 24th to May 26th, and be sure to save your spot now. Just fill out the registration form on page 3 and send it in to our office. You don't want to miss this much anticipated event!

Our panel sessions will help you enrich and strengthen your communities. Find out how to generate revenue into your towns by attending the panel session on Planning a Rural Festival. The panel on Recruiting Firefighters will talk about ways to reinforce your fire departments.

These are just a couple of examples of what our knowledgeable panelists have ready for attendees.

The acclaimed Political Roundtable will take place on May 25th. This is a perfect time find out what legislators have to say about issues affecting Rural Arkansas.

Each day attendees are invited to visit the exhibit booths located in the convention hall. Representatives from public, private, and nonprofit community organizations will be there to talk about community leadership and economic development. Get first hand information from Arkansas' experts.

In addition to these informative venues, the conference

will offer plenty of entertainment. Participants are invited to enjoy a magnificent dinner cruise on the renowned Hot Springs Belle. Of course there will also be the always popular DRS karaoke. Relax, mingle, and enjoy singing and dancing.

The DRS annual conference is an excellent opportunity to network with other active citizens and enjoy yourself. All Arkansans are invited to attend the conference and learn about programs and funding available in our state. For more information about the 2005 Arkansas Rural Development Conference, please contact the Department of Rural Services toll free at 1-888-RURAL AR.

From DRS Director and ARDC Chair

On behalf of the Department of Rural Services and ARDC, you are cordially invited to attend the 2005 Arkansas Rural Development Conference. This conference will have something for everyone. We have outstanding speakers and panelists lined up along with plenty of entertainment. For your convenience, we have included a conference agenda and registration form in this edition of the *Rural Advocate*. Thank you for supporting the educational opportunities and programs we offer to Rural Arkansans. We look forward to seeing you at the March 24 – 26th Rural Development Conference!



Cindy Kauffman
ARDC Chair



Bruce Campbell
DRS Director

Arkansas Rural Development Commission

Cindy Kauffman
Chair
Fordyce

Sam E. Angel II
Vice-Chair
Lake Village

Brenda Beltrani
DeQueen

Judy Brown
Brinkley

Bill Fly
Stuttgart

Jeff Gillespie
Danville

Mike Hathorn
Huntsville

Bruce Leggitt
Greenbrier

Larry Teague
Nashville

Darla Verkamp
Charleston

Arnell Washington
Dumas

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, May 24th:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM | Exhibition Set-Up Time |
| 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | ARDC Commission Meeting |
| 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Registration |
| 1:00 PM – 1:45 PM | Opening Welcome |
| 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Legislative Committee Meeting |
| 1:45 PM – 2:00 PM | Exhibit Break |
| 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions: Session 1: USDA - TBA Session 2: Planning a Rural Festival |
| 4:00 PM | Hospitality Suite Opens |
| 6:00 PM | Dinner Cruise Hot Springs Belle |

Wednesday, May 25th:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:00 AM | Continental Breakfast Bar Opens |
| 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Concurrent Sessions: Session 3: Recruiting Fire Fighters Session 4: Healthy Rural Arkansas |
| 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM | Exhibition Break |
| 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM | Legislative Committee Meeting |
| 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | ARDC Luncheon Keynote Speaker – TBA |
| 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Exhibition Break |
| 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Session 5: Panel Discussion: Looking Back at the 85th General Assembly |
| 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Exhibition Break |
| 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Session 6: Political Roundtable Moderator - Mr. Doug Thompson, Arkansas News Bureau |
| 4:30 PM | Hospitality Suite Opens Dinner on your own |
| 8:30 PM – 12:00 AM | Karaoke and Dancing |

Thursday, May 26th:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:00 AM | Continental Breakfast Bar Opens |
| 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Concurrent Sessions: Session 7: USDA - TBA Session 8: Grant Writing Workshop |
| 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Exhibition Break |
| 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Legislative Committee Meetings |
| 11:15 AM | Doors open for lunch |
| 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM | Governor's Luncheon |

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The objective of the annual event is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain a working knowledge about a variety of programs and services that are available to assist our communities and their leaders with development, planning and revitalization efforts. The Department of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission are committed to providing the most up to date information in a relaxed environment conducive to learning and sharing. If there is one goal of this annual event, it would be to provide our participants with the information and resources to help themselves.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Arkansas Rural Development Conference is designed for anyone interested in improving the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. Its target audience includes state legislators, mayors, county judges, rural fire fighters, local community leaders, and community development professionals who are interested in the future development of the State of Arkansas.

Arkansans with a genuine interest in a better quality of life and who are willing to work for change are strongly encouraged to attend.

CONFERENCE FEE INFORMATION

The conference fee is \$100 per attendee. Spouse/Child(ren) fees are \$50 per person. Exhibit space is \$200 or complimentary with two full paid registrations (any additional person must pay regular fee). The full attendance fee covers all conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. The registration form and all fees should be received by DRS by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4th. Cancellations may be subject to a service charge.

Please make checks payable to:

ARDC
101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel accommodations start at \$65 per night are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Austin Hotel as soon as possible by calling 1-877-623-6697 or 501-623-6600. Room block release date is April 27th.

**REMEMBER TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE
ARKANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.**

The Austin Hotel & Convention Center
305 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs National Park, AR 71901-5445
1-877-623-6697
www.TheAustinHotel.com



Registration Form
2005 Arkansas Rural Development Conference
(please copy or cut-out)

Participant Information:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone/Fax: _____ / _____

E-mail: _____

Spouse/Child(ren) Information:

Name(s): _____

Below are sponsored events which will be provided with your paid registrations (\$100 regular, \$50 each spouse or child). For planning purposes, please indicate which events you and/or your spouse/child(ren) plan on attending by placing an **X** in the blank next to each event.

| <u>Participant</u> | <u>Spouse/ Child(ren)</u> | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 6:00 p.m. May 24th Dinner Cruise Hot Springs Belle |
| _____ | _____ | 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 25th Continental Breakfast |
| _____ | _____ | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. May 25th Luncheon |
| _____ | _____ | 8:30 - 12:00 a.m. May 25th Karaoke and Dancing |
| _____ | _____ | 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 26th Continental Breakfast |
| _____ | _____ | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. May 26th Governor's Luncheon |

☐ **YES!** My organization has paid two **full** registration fees (\$200 or more) or I am paying one registration fee plus an additional \$100 and would like to reserve a **BOOTH** in the exhibit hall.
I ☐ **will** or ☐ **will not** require electricity for my exhibit. (booth participants will receive final instructions before event)

☐ **No.** My organization will be unable to have a booth this year.

Make all checks payable to:
ARDC
101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201

For Office Use Only

Paid Check No. _____ Amount \$ _____
PO Number _____

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES

101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 888-787-2527
Fax: 501-682-6014
Email: Rural.Arkansas@arkansas.gov

PRSRT STD
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OP

DRS Staff

Bruce Campbell
Director

Amy Gunnett
Assistant Director

Lucy Farris
Grants Coordinator

Stephanie Pistole
Grants Coordinator

Lauren Smith
Administrative Assistant

“Striving to Enhance the Quality of Life in Rural Arkansas”

Department of Rural Services Grant Programs

| Grants | Eligibility | Available | Match | Next Deadline |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|-------|---------------|
| Rural Community Development Grant | Communities with less than 3,000 people | \$15,000 | 50% | 3/25/05 |
| Rural Fire Protection Grant | Communities with less than 3,000 people | \$15,000 | 50% | 3/25/05 |
| County Fair Building Grant | Counties with less than 55,000 people | \$4,000 | 50% | 8/26/05 |
| Rural Services Block Grant | Communities with less than 3,000 people and LMI of 51% or higher | \$50,000 | 10% | 12/16/05 |



Grants Awarded Fiscal Year 2005 Cycle II:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Rural Services Block Grants | \$500,000 |
| Rural Community Development Grants | \$ 65,763 |
| Rural Fire Protection Grants | \$100,292 |

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED CYCLE II= \$666,055

*For more information about our grants visit
www.arkansas.gov/drs or call toll free 1-888-787-2527.